

Annual TRI National Training Conference

March 30 – April 2, 2009

Call for Presentations and Registration Announcement

This is the annual 'Call for Presentations' for the next Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) National Training Conference, planned for March 30 - April 2, 2009, in Bethesda, Maryland. The theme for this year's gathering is **"TRI: Expanding Partnerships/Expanding Knowledge."** Co-sponsors Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and U.S. EPA's TRI Program invite you to submit a proposal on "Increasing Effective Use of TRI Information" as it relates to studies and tools that make TRI an effective program. If you have another idea that does not fit exactly into one of these categories, please send it in for consideration. Your presentations will be given at the conference on March 31 or April 1.

Presentation Topics

The conference will again offer a variety of thought-provoking and informative sessions on various TRI and related topics, including keynote presentations by EPA and ECOS leadership, plenary discussions on expanded partnerships, regulatory updates, and workshops and training on TRI and TRI-MEweb.

This year's breakout sessions will center on "Increasing Effective Use of TRI Information." In order to make this program a success, we need your proposals to coordinate and/or participate in a panel discussion. Some possible topics for discussion include, but are not limited to:

Effective Uses of TRI Information

- ChemicalRight2Know.org
- Financial Sector Interest in Environmental Information
- Researchers and Risk
- Sector Analyses
- EPA's National Dialogue on Environmental Information

Tools Making TRI A More Effective Program

- Pollution Prevention
- Map Ecos
- TRI.net
- TRI Explorer
- Geospatial Mapping
- Curricula

Guidelines for Submission

- ❖ Proposals should contain an overview of the topic, indicate the format envisioned (panel discussion or individual presentation), and provide full contact information for each speaker. Proposals should run 1-2 paragraphs in total.
- ❖ Those submitting incomplete proposals will be contacted by December 3, 2008, and given until December 8, 2008 – 11:59 Eastern to resubmit the proposal.
- ❖ Please obtain a definite commitment that each presenter is available to appear on any day of the training conference. The co-presenter(s) must agree to all the terms and conditions for participation.
- ❖ Accepted presenters will be notified by January 19, 2009. Accepted proposals will be assigned a specific speaking date and time by January 30, 2009.
- ❖ Speakers should complete an acceptance form no later than February 16, 2009. All speakers will receive an official confirmation letter.

Please submit proposals to Lia Parisien of ECOS at lparsie@sso.org by December 1, 2008 – 11:59 p.m. Eastern.

EPA and ECOS reserve the right to revise presentation titles, reassign the identified topic area, or edit the session description of selected presentations for EPA and ECOS promotional and program publications.

Registration, Travel Scholarship, and Hotel Information

For the first time at a TRI National Training Conference, a registration fee is being collected from all attendees to cover the cost of lunches and refreshment breaks, during which significant networking and informal discussion of conference issues among participants will occur. Registration fees collected will also be used to defray the cost of travel scholarships.

- ❖ Selected speakers are responsible for all expenses incurred in conjunction with the 2009 TRI National Training Conference.
- ❖ The registration fee structure is as follows: a \$295 early registration fee is applicable for payments received thru Feb. 27, 2009, and a \$325 regular registration fee is applicable for payments received thereafter. Registration will open on Dec. 1, 2008. Beginning on that date, visit the following site for a registration link and additional details:
<http://www.ecos.org/section/events/?id=3253&PHPSESSID=c043c64940e6428fdbc72211d5c5c446>.
- ❖ As stated in Cooperative Agreement #83390401-0, up to 50 state and tribal participants and non-federal speakers are eligible for travel scholarships for the 2009 conference. Guidelines and application details on travel scholarships will be provided at a later date.
- ❖ Please begin your travel approval process now. A block of rooms is being held for conference attendees at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda. The hotel website is <http://www.bethesda.hyatt.com>. The special rate is \$201/night, plus tax. Please call the hotel directly at (301) 657-1234 or (800) 233-1234 by March 1, 2009, and reference the "TRI Conference" in order to receive the special rate. After this date, reservations will be accepted on a space- and rate-available basis only. For hotel reservation purposes, the tentative schedule of events is as follows: March 30 - Participant workshop/training (a.m.)/EPA meeting (p.m.); March 31 and April 1 - Full conference; April 2 - EPA-state meeting (a.m.)/Participant workshop/training (p.m.).

Contact Us

If you have any questions, contact Lia Parisien of ECOS at lparsie@sso.org/202-624-3674 or Peggy Bagnoli of U.S. EPA at bagnoli.peggy@epa.gov /202-566-1230.

For up-to-date information on the conference, please visit:

<http://www.ecos.org/section/events/?id=3253&PHPSESSID=c043c64940e6428fdbc72211d5c5c446>.